Some Conſiderations *Humbly Offered, againſt Granting the Sole Trade to* GUINY *from Cape* Blanco *to Cape* Lopez, *to a Company with a Joint Stock, excluſive of others.*

A Company with a Joint Stock Excluſive, is a Monopoly; which has always been eſteemed a great Grievance in matters of ſmall Moment, and will be much more ſo in a Trade of ſo large Extent, and ſuch vaſt Importance to this Nation, in the Export of its Woollen, and other Manufactures; and to the Plantations, in furniſhing them with Negroes, by whoſe Strength and Labour all their Commodities which come from thence, as Sugar, Indigo, Cotton, Ginger, Tobacco, *&c.* are produced, and whereby the Navigation and Revenue of this Kingdom is ſo greatly Increaſed.

And ſuch a Company ſo eſtabliſhed will have all the Miſchiefs of a Monopoly.

I. They will buy the Woollen, and other Engliſh Manufactures, proper for *Guiny*, at their own Rates, having no Competitors, and will ſell all the Commodities they import from thence into *England*, at what Priſes they pleaſe.

II. In ſuch Caſe they alone can carry ſuch Negroes to the *Weſt-Indies* as are fit for the Engliſh Plantations, which are only to be purchaſed between Cape *Blanco* and Cape *Lopez*, and ſo will make their own Prizes for them, and Impoſe what Terms they pleaſe on the Planters, as heretofore the *African* Company have done: and by buying Negroes dear, leſs of the *Weſt-India* Commodities have been, and will be produced, and at greater Charge; whereby other Nations have already had an Opportunity, and have too well made uſe of it, to Vye with us in thoſe Commodities; to the great Abatement of the Advantage of this Kingdom; and it may prove the Ruine of our Colonies: For if the Company have produced ſuch Miſchiefs by the Authority of a Charter only, What may be expected from them, if they ſhould be eſtabliſhed by a Law?

III. Such a Company having no Competitors, will buy as Cheap, and ſell as Dear as they pleaſe; and ſo will get as much by One Thouſand Pounds, as would be good Profit to Private Perſons trading with Three times as much; and therefore it is not their Intereſt to enlarge the Trade, but to get as much as they can by the ſmall Stock they employ; whereas many Buyers would Enhance the Price of Engliſh Manufactures at home, and occaſion a great Exportation of them, and lower the Price of Forreign Goods in *England*, and bring Negroes much cheaper to the Plantations, and thereby the Trade would greatly Increaſe.

And though the Company now offer to content themſelves to be limited from Cape Blanco *to Cape* Lopez, *and to leave out* Angola, *yet that does not at all help the matter, for theſe Reaſons:*

1. It is humbly conceived, That all the Subjects of *England* have an Equal Right to all parts of the *Guiny* Trade.

2. The Extent of the Coaſt between Cape *Blanco* and Cape *Lopez*, is about 3000 Miles, beſides up the Rivers in the Inland Country; and includes the whole Trade for Gold, Teeth, Dying Wood, and for ſuch Negroes as are fit for, and deſired at the Engliſh Plantations: For although there are Negroes to be had at *Angola*, and ſuch as the *Spaniards* like, yet the *Engliſh* will not buy them, unleſs a few for their Houſe Service; they being a lazy ſort of Negro, and very rebellious: And the ſafety of the Plantations depends upon having Negroes from all parts of *Guiny*, who not underſtanding each others languages and Cuſtoms, do not, and cannot agree to Rebel, as they would do, and has by ſad Experience been found, when there are too many Negroes from one Country.

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3. This would exclude all the reſt of the Subjects of *England* from buying the Manufactures of this Kingdom proper for the *Guiny* Trade, very little of the *Engliſh* Commodities being vended in *Angola*. For when a Ship is ſent thither, in a whole Cargo there is not above 2 P^c^ Bayes 1 C^t^ weight of Pewter, 1 piece of Cloath, a few Muſquets, ſome Anabaſſes, and about 5 *l.* value in Knives; all the reſt of the Cargo are either Commodities from the *Eaſt-Indies*, or Goods from *Holland*: Whereas in a Cargo for thoſe parts, from which the Company would have the reſt of their Fellow-Subjects excluded, there is ſent from 1500 to 2000 pieces of Perpetuanoes, 150, or 200 peices of Sayes, 6 or 700 Dozen of Knives, beſides great quantities of Gunpowder, Boyſadoes, Welſh Plains, and Pewter.

And if it ſhould be pretended, That the Company will furniſh the Plantations with what quantity of Negroes they deſire, and at ſuch Rates as ſhall be thought Reaſonable by the Parliament, or any other Perſons to be appointed from time to time, yet that would be no more than what they formerly engaged to do, when their Patent was granted by King *Charles* the Second, and in a more eſpecial manner for the Iſland of *Jamaica*: But it's to be Obſerved, That whatever fair and ſpecious Pretences they made, they were far from performing them; and neither ſupplied the Plantations with the quantities of Negroes, nor at the prices they were obliged to do; nor would they hereafter comply any better with ſuch an Agreement, if it ſhould be made, for they know in caſe of their Nonperformance, the Planter would be no more able to Contend with their Joynt Stock now, then formerly, and the Governours of the Plantations, being the Companys Factors, the poor Planters muſt be content with their Treatment, whatever it be, becauſe the Remedy to obtain Redreſs, would be worſe then the Injury they ſuffer.

As to the Forts *and* Caſtles *whereby they pretend to have Recovered the Trade, and to have ſecured it to thoſe they call* Interlopers.

1. The Trade to *Guinea* was greateſt, when it was open, more Goods of the Growth and Manufacture of *England* were Exported for *Guinea*, and the Plantations Better and Cheaper furniſhed with Negroes, than ſince the Company have been ſetled.

2. At all the Chief Places of Trade for Negroes, there is neither Fort nor Caſtle.

3. Where there is any Fort or Caſtle, they cannot ſecure the Trade, or annoy any one that would diſturb it, out of the reach of their Guns.

4. One or two Men of War would be a much better Security to the Trade than all their Forts and Caſtles.

5. Although the chiefeſt Caſtle the Company have, belongs of right to the Nation, and not to the Company, being taken by Engliſh Men of War, with the loſs of the Blood of thoſe that did not belong to the Company; yet that, and all others, were they more conſiderable might be paid for, and with eaſe Maintained by a Regulated Company, with a ſmall Impoſition on the Trade out of *England*, and on the Negroes Imported into the Plantations.

And that there may no room be left to doubt hereof, there are perſons who will engage to Raiſe a ſufficient Fund to pay for their Forts, *&c.* and to defray the future Charge of Maintaining them, and will receive their Reimburſement out of the Duties which may be appointed to be Raiſed on the Trade, as it ſhall come in. And therefore it is humbly hoped, the *Guinea* Trade will be ſetled in that manner; and the rather, conſidering the great Diſcouragement thoſe Merchants and Planters have lain under by the Mortality in the *Weſt Indies*, and the Earthquake at *Jamaica*, and the great Loſſes which they have ſuſtained in this War; and by the ſetling the *Guinea* Trade in a Regulated Company, Ingenuity and Induſtry would be Encouraged, that Trade would be Secured and Enlarged, more Gold and Goods from *Guinea* would be Imported into *England*, the Plantations would be better and cheaper ſupplyed with Negroes, whereby the Revenues of the Crown, and the Navigation of this Kingdom would be greatly increaſed, and all the Inconveniencies and Miſchiefs of a Monopoly would be avoided.

All which is Humbly Submitted to the Conſideration of the Honourable Houſe of Commons.

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